

46. Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 285

Tito Livio Frulovisi, “Life of Henry V”; Aldhelm,

“Carmen de Virginitate”

with OE Glosses, “De octo vitiis”

[Ker 54, Gneuss 82]

HISTORY: Two manuscripts from different periods have been incongruously combined, probably in the 16c: Part A, a 15c copy of Tito Livio Frulovisi’s Latin “Life of Henry V” and Part B, an 11c copy of Aldhelm’s verse “Carmen de Virginitate.” The later manuscript, Part A (ff.1–74), is a deluxe copy of the Latin life of King Henry V by the Italian humanist, Tito Livio Frulovisi of Ferrara (c. 1400–c.1456; on his life and career, see Arbizzoni 1998 and Merisalo 2009: 379–84). The “Life of Henry V” or “Vita Henrici Quinta” was written during Frulovisi’s short stay in England in 1437–38 at the request of Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester (1390–1447) (on Frulovisi’s work with Humfrey and career in England, see Saygin 2002: 254–59). Written in praise of Henry V and in support of his claim on the French throne, the work is largely derived from the “Vita et Gesti Henrici Quinti” by the pseudo-Elmham (Rundle 2008 and Merisalo 2009: 384–92). The manuscript is a fair copy in the hand of the author, as noted by Previt -Orton (1932: xviii–xix), who notes also that the rather splendid decoration on f. 4v is by the same artist as the one whose work is found in Cambridge, St. John’s College 60, containing Frulovisi’s *Comediae*. The present manuscript is probably that intended (or adapted?) for presentation to Henry VI, although Previt -Orton considered the actual presentation-copy lost (1932: xix; see also Hunt and de la Mare 1970: 3–4, no. 44; Krochalis 1988: 72n.43; Sharpe 2001: 689; Rundle 2008: 1129). It is unknown how the manuscript came into ownership of Matthew Parker, who bequeathed it to Corpus. There occurs some occasional annotation, as on ff. 24r and 32r. Annotation in an English 16c hand occurs on f. 64r.

Part B (ff. 75–131) is an early 11c English copy of Aldhelm’s verse “Carmen de Virginitate”. This particular textual recension is a ‘second and later redaction’ associated with the Benedictine revival of the 10c in England

and may ultimately stem from Oxford, Bodleian Library Rawlinson C.697 [405] (Lapidge 2012: 34). According to T.A.M. Bishop (1971: xxv, 18), the main scribe made additions to Cambridge, Pembroke College 88 [70], a continental manuscript that may have been at St. Augustine's, Canterbury in the second half of the 10c (Rella 1980: 111; but the attribution is rejected by Barker-Benfield 2008: 1824); furthermore, the glossing hand found in CCC 285 may be that of a scribe named 'John' who glossed a number of books, including Worcester, Cathedral Library Q.8 + Add. 7 with later medieval provenance in Worcester, El Escorial, Real Biblioteca E.II.1 [129a] found in the later 11c in Horton, and Oxford, Bodleian Library Bodley 311 [356], found later in 11c Exeter (cf. Dumville 1993: 53–55 and Budny 1997: 1.460), though this identification is uncertain (Dumville 1993: 54–55 and Stokes 2014: 60). John's peregrinations do not allow an ascription of origin or provenance. The OE glosses were added by at least two scribes in the first half of the 11c (Scragg 2012: nos 153 and 154). Later medieval provenance and ownership unknown. The manuscript appears to have circulated for a time unbound, as wear and darkening on its outer leaves shows (ff. 75r and 131v; see Budny 1997: 1.460).

The two distinct manuscripts were probably bound together in the 16c by Parker or his circle and the endleaf (f. 132), taken from a 16c document, may have been added at that time. Parkerian use is indicated by chapter numbers (1–26) added in red crayon in Part A; the numbers were later continued in black ink sporadically up to 100 on f. 72v. 'N.31' on ff. 1v and 2v refers to its number in the printed list of books bequeathed by Archbishop Matthew Parker to Corpus Christi College in 1575. The book was repaired or rebound in 1748–50 (Budny 1997: 1.461) and rebound again by J.S. Wilson and Sons in Cambridge in 1952 as a note on the modern paper binding leaves shows. Previous descriptions by James (1912: 2:51), and by Budny (1997: 1.459–62, no. 27 (Part B only)).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Folios ii + 3 + 71 + 57 + 1 + ii; all membrane except for the outer paper endleaves, measuring 259 × 175 mm. Part A is foliated in pencil at the top right-hand corner of recto leaves, and at the same time quire numbers were added at the bottom right-hand corner of the first recto of each quire. Part B is similar except that the quires have their sequence indicated by capital letters A, B, etc. Part A uses carefully prepared membrane which is thin and of fine quality, such that there was apparently no need for a regular pattern of hair/flesh distribution (see "Collation"). The written area measures 191 × 100/114 (inner/outer) mm. Part B uses good quality membrane, sometimes somewhat thick, although

there is a hole in the written area in f. 102; the written area measures 210 × 106/122 (inner/outer) mm. F. 92 is a supplied leaf, written and tipped in later, blank on the verso. The bottom outer corner of f. 89 has been repaired, probably when the manuscript was rebound in 1952. Part B is generally arranged hair outside, like facing like within (see “Collation” below).

In neither part of the codex is pricking visible; probably it was trimmed by a binder. Part A is ruled in very fine crayon, a frame rule with double vertical bounding lines and the top and bottom horizontal lines extending to the edges of the leaves. 30 horizontal lines are ruled but the top line is not used for writing. The space between the outer and inner bounding lines is used for capitals. In Part B, ruled in dry point, a frame rule with double vertical bounding lines and the top and bottom horizontal lines extending to the edges of the leaves. Twenty-seven horizontal lines are ruled between the bounding lines (extending beyond them as indicated) and the top line is used for writing. The space between the outer and inner bounding lines is used for capitals at the beginning of lines, and in the Preface at the end of lines as well.

Part A is written in a fine humanist minuscule of the 15c in black ink with faded rubrication on the first leaf. To mark the beginning of chapters gold initial capitals showing a height of two or three lines are provided. The opening of Part A shows a handsome initial C encompassing a fine coat of arms for England and France quarterly — the arms of Henry V — ornamented round the top left corner of the page with intertwined trails of branches with leaves, flowers and a bird, all in gold, blue, green, white, red and pink. At the top left of the miniature is a man's head with a white beard (the author?) and he is wearing a red hat which has a wide brim and a pointed centre which curls over to his left at the top; he is presumably meant to be seen as presenting his work.

Part B was written at the beginning of the 11c in a brown anglo-caroline minuscule, with the scribe occasionally adding corrections in the margin, as on f. 83r. It has been sporadically glossed in Latin and OE in an anglo-caroline and insular minuscule usually above the line in blacker ink, but occasionally in the margin, as on f. 81r. Dry point glosses in insular minuscules. Red (often oxidized to metallic) is used for headings in rustic capitals and alternates with brown in chapter/paragraph initials and in the line-capitals, so that one paragraph/chapter has lines beginning with brown capitals and the next paragraph/chapter has lines beginning with red capitals. The opening acrostic-telestich poem (f. 75r) has capitals in the left and right columns for the initial and final letter of each line. The explicit for

“Carmen de Virginitate” is in red rustic capitals and a line of space is left before the red heading for “De octo vitiis”.

The last leaf, f. 132, was probably added in the 16c; this is a former pastedown, as the glue on the recto shows, with 16c records and scribbles that are very blotchy and faded, and hidden beneath the paper leaf on the verso (Budny 1997: 1.460–61). A green stain suggests a metal clasp was in place in its former binding. The opening and closing of Part B show signs of damp and wear.

The binding is quarter pigskin on the spine and corners, with brown cloth over millboards. 18c paper endleaves have been used to reinforce the membrane endleaves, making for composite leaves for f. 1 (paper/membrane) and f. 132 (membrane/paper), and new paper binding leaves added in 1952.

COLLATION: Part A: ii modern paper binding leaves (ff. i–ii); a⁴ wants 1 before f. 1; f. 1 has been strengthened by having the recto pasted onto 18c paper (ff. 1–3); I⁸ (ff. 4–11); II⁸ (ff. 12–19); III⁸ (ff. 20–27); IV⁸ (ff. 28–35); V⁸ (ff. 36–43); VI⁸ (ff. 44–51); VII⁸ (ff. 52–59); VIII⁸ (ff. 60–67); IX⁸ wants 8 after f. 75 (ff. 68–74). Catchwords occur at the end of the text on each verso leaf: 11, 19, 27, 35, 43, 51, 59 and 67. Hair/Flesh arrangement: Quire a HF; quires I and VI HHHF; quire IV HFHF; quire V HFFF; quires II and VII FFFF; quire III FHFH; quires VIII and IX FHHH.

Part B: X⁶ (ff. 75–80), XI⁸ (ff. 81–8), XII⁸⁺¹ (ff. 89–97, f. 92 being a slip written only on the recto and tipped in), XIII⁸ (ff. 98–105), XIV⁸ (ff. 106–113), XV⁸ (ff. 114–121), XVI⁸ (ff. 122–129), XVII²⁺¹ a medieval bifolium with f.132 being added later, probably as a protective endleaf in the 16c; f. 132 is composite, as an 18c paper former endleaf is glued to what would be its verso. Hair/Flesh: quire X HFH; quires XI–XVI HFHF; quire XVII H, i.e. hair-side outside.

CONTENTS:

- f. i recto modern paper flyleaf, blank but for shelfmark and modern ink note on binding.
- ff. i verso–ii verso blank.
- f. 1r covered with 18c paper (possibly some scribbles underneath), and the class-number ‘285’ written in pencil.
- f. 1v ‘N.31,’ the Parkerian number, and towards the bottom two lines of verse in red in a 16c hand, probably that of Frulovisi (Previté-Orton 1932: xix): ‘Hoc tuus exiguo te munere donat amator; | Nemo carens magnis tradere magna potest.’ (pr. by Previté-Orton 1932: xix).

f. 2r blank

f. 2v blank apart from the Parkerian number 'N.31.'

ff. 3rv blank.

Part A

1. ff. 4r/1–73r/17 Tito Livio Frulovisi, "Vita Regis Henrici Quinti": **Inuictissimi Anglorum franciæq(ue) | Regis henrici q(ui)nti ad eius filiu(m) | christianissi[m]um Rege(m) he(n)ricu(m) sextu(m) | uita p(er) .T. liui(m) de frulouisiis fe(r)ra|rie(n)sem edita feliciter incipit.** | 'Cum a primis an(n)is de pare(n)te meo | suis & equalib(us)'; ends 'ad eam prouinciam & regnum tuu(m) franciæ | bene regundum [*recte* regendum] & gubernandum legauit'; followed by 'τω θὼ δόξα' (coll. Hearne 1716: 1–95). Remainder of leaf blank.

ff. 73v–74v blank

Part B

2. ff. 75r/1–122v/22 Aldhelm, "Carmen de Virginitate"

- a. ff. 75r/1–75v/14 Preface: **INCIPIT LIBER ALDHELMI EPISCOPI | DE UIRGINITATE SEU LAUDE S(AN)C(T)ORVM.** | 'METRICA TIRONES NUNC PROMANT | CARMINA CASTOS. . . Sotsac animrac tnamorp cnun seniorit acirteM' (coll. Ehwald 1919: 350–52);
- b. ff. 75v/15–122v/22 "Carmen de virginitate": **INVOCATIO IN D(EU)M DELAUDIBUS | S(AN)C(T)ORU(M) VIRORVM | 'O(m)nip(otentem) genitor mundum dicione gubernans';** ends: 'Plumabant [gl.: 'ornabant'] parit(er) macta uirtute coronam | **EXPLICIT LIBELLUS ALDHELMI | EPISCOPI. DE LAUDE S(AN)C(T)ORU(M) PATRU(M) | ATQUE. VIRGINUM.**' (coll. Ehwald 1919: 352–452; as Giles 1844: 135–202). F.122v/23 blank.

[Note: The tipped-in slip, f. 92, supplies 6 lines of text omitted on f. 91v. The verso side of the slip is blank. On f. 109r, the last four lines of St. Cecilia have been missed out, and they have been added in the lower margin in a later hand with insertion mark. Glosses in Latin and OE in a small hand using caroline forms (except for Napier's gloss 26), plus mainly scratched glosses in a larger hand using insular letterforms. OE glosses printed by Napier 1900: 184–5, no.18.]

3. ff. 122v/24–131v/8 Aldhelm, "De Octo Principalibus Vitiis" (verse): **EIUSDEM DE OCTO VITIIS PRINCIPALIBVS.** | 'DIGESTIS IGI-TUR S(AN)C(T)ORU(M) LAUDIBUS ALMIS'; ends: 'Adduci merear chr(ist)o regnante per eϑhram' | **EXPLICIT AIBHP ALDHELMI ARCHI|EPISCOPI DE VIII VITIIS PRINCIPALIBUS** (as Giles 1844: 203–15; coll. Ehwald 1919: 452–71). F.131v/9–27 blank except for a couple of later scribbles, including 'Gaudeamus om(ni)s'.

[Note: Glosses in Latin and OE in a small hand using caroline forms, plus some scratched glosses in a larger hand using insular letter-forms. OE glosses printed by Napier 1900: 190, no. 22.]

f. 132r shows the remains of erased text on which has been scribbled at the top (partly cropped) 'Anglie p(ri)mati et ap(ostolice) se[dis] | in sp(irit)ualibus gen(er)ali (et) off(ic)iali | p(at)ri debitas cu(m) honore.' The name 'humfry' at gutter. Drawing of an ornament (apparently upside-down) at the bottom. f. 132v covered in 18c paper and paper blank.

ff. iii–iv modern paper endleaves blank.

PHOTO NOTES: Modern paper binding leaves, ff. i recto–ii recto not photographed; ff. 91v–92r is the half leaf photographed three times; f. 132v (blank) plus modern paper binding leaves ff. iii–iv not photographed. Digital facsimile available at *Parker Library on the Web* (http://parkerweb.stanford.edu/parker/actions/page_turner.do?ms_no=285).

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